

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183841

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CFED, PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: TRIFA CASE

1. YOU HAVE RECEIVED SEPTTEL ON LENGTHY HEARING BY
EILBERG SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROSECUTION OF FORMER "WAR
CRIMINALS," IN WHICH TRIFA CASE WAS MENTIONED IN PASSING
BY CONGRESSWOMAN HOLTZMAN.

2. FOLLOWING HEARING, ROMANIAN DESK OFFICER SUMMARIZED
PROCEEDINGS FOR ROMANIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR RACEANU, WHO
HAD ASKED FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HOUSE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE VISIT TO ROMANIA. DESK OFFICER SAID
CONGRESSMAN EILBERG MAY WISH TO DISCUSS TRIFA CASE WITH
GOR, AMONG COMMITTEE'S OTHER INTERESTS, ADDING THAT
COMMITTEE'S DESIRE TO SEE EXPEDITIOUS PROGRESS ON
PROSECUTION OF PENDING CASES WAS VERY STRONG. DESK
OFFICER ADDED THAT SCANTINESS OF DOCUMENTATION ON TRIFA
PROVIDED BY MFA IN FEBRUARY WAS SURPRISING TO US AND THAT
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PERHAPS PROBLEM LAY IN DEFINITION OF WHAT MATERIAL MIGHT
BE CONSIDERED GERMANE. IN ANY CASE, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT
COMMITTEE MEMBERS MIGHT WISH TO EXPLORE THIS QUESTION WITH
GOR DURING VISIT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM MFA OF OUR
CONTINUING INTEREST IN INFORMATION ON TRIFA, TAKING

APPROACH THAT GOR REVIEW THE CRITERIA USED IN PREPARING PREVIOUS RESPONSE, WHICH MAY HAVE ELIMINATED DOCUMENTS OR INFORMATION WHICH MAY AFTER ALL PROVE TO BE GERMANE. IF POSSIBLE, EMBASSY'S REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE COMMITTEE'S ARRIVAL, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT TRIFA CASE IS BY NO MEANS SOLE PURPOSE OF VISIT. DESK OFFICER TOLD RACEANU THAT CODEL VISIT PROVIDES GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR GOR TO RAISE VISA AND OTHER CONSULAR QUESTIONS WITH CONGRESSMEN PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING U.S. LEGISLATION ON SUCH MATTERS.

4. IN POST-ARRIVAL BRIEFING FOR CODEL EILBERG, EMBASSY SHOULD SUMMARIZE EFFORTS ON TRIFA CASE AND ENCOURAGE CODEL TO RAISE MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE ROMANIAN OFFICIALS. WE WILL BE DOING THE SAME HERE IN PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING. CHRISTOPHER

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